

# “Building Our Sense of Community”

# Shelton State Courier

—Campus Newspaper—

New Series Vol. 2, Number 14

Shelton State Community College

Oct. 13-Oct. 26, 1998

## Who's best for us?



Photo by Courier Staff

For many young people, this election will be their first. Which candidate for governor will they help to elect—Don Siegelman (L) or Fob James?



Photo by Misty Holbrook

By LeKeisha Steele

The names Don Siegelman and Fob James are on the tips of everyone's tongue as the political heat is turned up with the election Nov. 3, just around the corner.

What is really important though? What are the issues? What does Shelton need, and who is best for Shelton and other two-year colleges across the State?

The focus of this 1998 Governor's race is, to an extraor-

dinary degree, education and who has the best platform for the future of our citizens.

In Don Siegelman's proposed agenda, a lottery would be used to raise the needed money for education.

According to Siegelman, the funds raised by a lottery could provide tuition to statewide high school graduates who dream of attending two-year or four-year colleges.

With a successful lottery

modeled after the one in Georgia, this could be done without the need to raise taxes or take money from

Best cont'd on pg. 3

## My Fair Lady to run in our beautiful new theatre

By Courier Staff

One of the great days of the new campus was experienced Oct. 2. That was the day many of the fine arts activists and benefactors in Tuscaloosa and throughout the state gathered to dedicate Shelton's and Theatre Tuscaloosa's new facility: the Bean-Brown Theatre.

The mood was special because of the nostalgia it produced and the air of satisfaction the participants reveled in. It was evident that everyone agreed with theatre instructor and TT executive director Paul Looney, who described the realization of the new facility as "a dream come

true."

Theatre Tuscaloosa will open its new home, the Bean-Brown Theatre, with Lerner and Loewe's classic musical *My Fair Lady* on October 16, 1998 with performances continuing through October 25.

Theatre Tuscaloosa Executive Producer Paul K. Looney said, "We are all tremendously excited about our first production in the new theatre. As we were planning the operation show almost a year ago, it became obvious to me that *My Fair Lady*

Lady cont'd on pg. 3



Paul Looney holds his head in awed appreciation while given a standing ovation at the Bean-Brown Theatre dedication

Photo by Courier Staff

## SGA holds first official meeting

By James A. Crawford II

The newly elected SGA held its first official meeting on Tuesday, October 6, in the Culinary Arts room, just off the first floor of the west wing.

The Council consists of President Becky Avery, Vice President Dee McGraw, Secretary Dedra Harris, Treasurer David Steele.

The newly formed SGA is lead by its spirited young President, a sophomore majoring in Public relations and Advertising.

Avery has some solid ideas for the SGA's first term. "The main reason I became a part of the SGA was to help initiate some positive changes here at Shelton. I'd like to

see the entire student body become more involved with the sports programs and in other areas of the

sponsoring various programs which may include such events as blood drives and various fund raising.

Avery points out several factors facing the SGA in the upcoming future. "The main thing is word of mouth. We need to let the students know we're here.

We have several people with advantages working on the council already. They're bringing experience from other school organizations such as the *Courier*, the Ambassadors and other organizations here at Shelton into

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Sheltoniana Which Can Be Found Nowhere Else

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Look for the sales, discount coupons, and special notices in the *Courier's* ads

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New SGA President Becky Avery campus," says Avery.

Aside from working with the student body, the SGA will also be Shelton's newest outreach into the community.

The organization will be



## Y'all Come Back!

Faculty, Staff, Current Students, Former Students, Former Employees of all stripes—everyone—is invited to come home to their mama in her new home at 9500 Greensboro Ave. for the first-ever Homecoming Oct. 26-28.

On Monday, Oct. 26 the Shelton Alumni Association will sponsor a bonfire and celebration beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Homecoming Queen will be crowned at 7. The Silver Creek Band will play until 8:30.

On Oct. 27, current and former members of Phi theta Kappa and the Shelton Ambassadors will be honored at a reception and reunion at 6 p.m. At 7:30 the music department will present an international concert in the Bean-Brown theatre. Free Admission. For more Homecoming information, call 391-2221 or 191-2252.

## Works by acclaimed photographer to be BellSouth Gallery's first exhibition in the Shelton Fine Arts Centre

Internationally recognized as one of today's pre-eminent location photographers, Allen Rokach has been selected to inaugurate the new BellSouth Gallery in the Tuscaloosa Fine Arts Centre, across from the Bean-Brown theatre. His exhibition will be on display from Oct. 16 through Nov. 15.

Rokach, who is currently Senior Photographer for *Southern Living* magazine, is also the director and founder of The Centre for Nature Photography and from 1976 to 1989 was Director of Photography for The New York Botanical Garden.

His assignments as a location photographer have taken him from Canyonlands National Park in Utah to the vast Amazon Rain Forest.

"We were looking for a major artist for our first show in the new BellSouth Gallery and Mr. Rokach's work came to my attention. His large-scale photographs of flowers seemed to fit very nicely with

our production of *My Fair Lady*," said Doug Perry, managing director of Theatre Tuscaloosa.

In addition, Rokach has been commissioned to do photo work by PepsiCo, Chase Manhattan, Air France, Netherlands Board of Tourism, *Landscape Architecture*, *Cooking Light*, *Southern Accents* and *The New York Times*.

Rokach's photos have graced the covers of such magazines as *Horticulture*, *Natural History*, *Modern Photography*, *Fine Gardening*, *Southern Living* and others.

Together with Anne Millman, Rokach co-authored *Focus on Flowers: Discovering and Photographing Beauty in Garden and Wild Places*, which won the 1991 Award of the Year for photography from the Garden Writers Association.

The Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and at performance times of the Brown-Bean Theatre.

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## Future Issues

The *Courier* looks forward to 15 more issues this school year: one more in October, two each in November, February, March and April; one each month is scheduled for December, January, May, June, July and August. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278.

## Clips are what count!

If you are majoring in any of the mass communication fields (journalism, advertising, broadcast & film, etc.) you should know that experience is what counts. No matter what your intended field is, you can get the experience you need to get a job by working on *The Shelton State Courier*, a professional newspaper about the college and its surrounding community.

Students may wish to participate in the following positions:

- copy/news editor
- sports writers
- photographers
- artists, designers, and cartoonists
- columnists
- circulation/marketing

Get the experience you need for the job you really want.

Call 391-2278, if you have something to contribute to your *Courier*.

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### Shelton State Courier

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**Publisher:** Dr. Jim Kenny

**Business Manager:** Chris Bailey

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**Production Assistant:** Julie Massengale

The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students

are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.



**Lady cont'd from pg. 1**

would be a wonderful choice. The show has great music, beautiful costumes, exciting roles for a large cast and would show off the new facility perfectly."

*My Fair Lady* was first produced on Broadway in March 1956, starring Rex Harrison and a relative newcomer, Julie Andrews. Based on the playing *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw and directed by Moss Hart, the show ran for over 2,700 performances and broke the long-run record held by *Oklahoma!* at a time when six-year runs were unheard of.

The show was subsequently transferred to film retaining the performances of Harris and Stanley Holloway who played Liza's father in the stage version.

In addition to Looney as director and scenic designer, the artistic team for Theatre Tuscaloosa's production includes costumer Walter Brown McCord. McCord's contribution to Theatre Tuscaloosa dates to 1977 when he designed *Little Mary Sunshine* for Tuscaloosa Community Players. He provided costume design for over 40 productions in Tuscaloosa as well as for groups in surrounding communities.

Musical direction for *My Fair Lady* will be provided by William Henderson, whose affiliation with Theatre Tuscaloosa dates to 1981. He has more than 100 shows to his credit in theatre ranging from the University of Alabama to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Lighting design will be by Charlie Dennis, the group's new technical director. He has designed for theatres across Alabama. Stephan DeGhelder returns to Tuscaloosa after achieving credits across the country, including Broadway.

Broadway.

The cast for the production includes Beth Stomps as Eliza Dolittle, Stomps, who just completed her reign as "Miss Alabama," is gifted with a tremendous singing voice for this role.

Playing opposite Stomps is Jim Merrill as Henry Higgins. Russell Hodgins, who performed as Beau Burnside in Theatre Tuscaloosa's production of *Mama*, will play Col. Pickering.

*My Fair Lady* is the story of Eliza, a poor flower girl in London, and her teacher Higgins, who accepts a wager that he could take an uneducated flower-seller and make her into a lady by improving her speech.

The score of *My Fair Lady* contains at least six songs that have become standards of musical theatre: "I Could Have Danced All Night," "On the

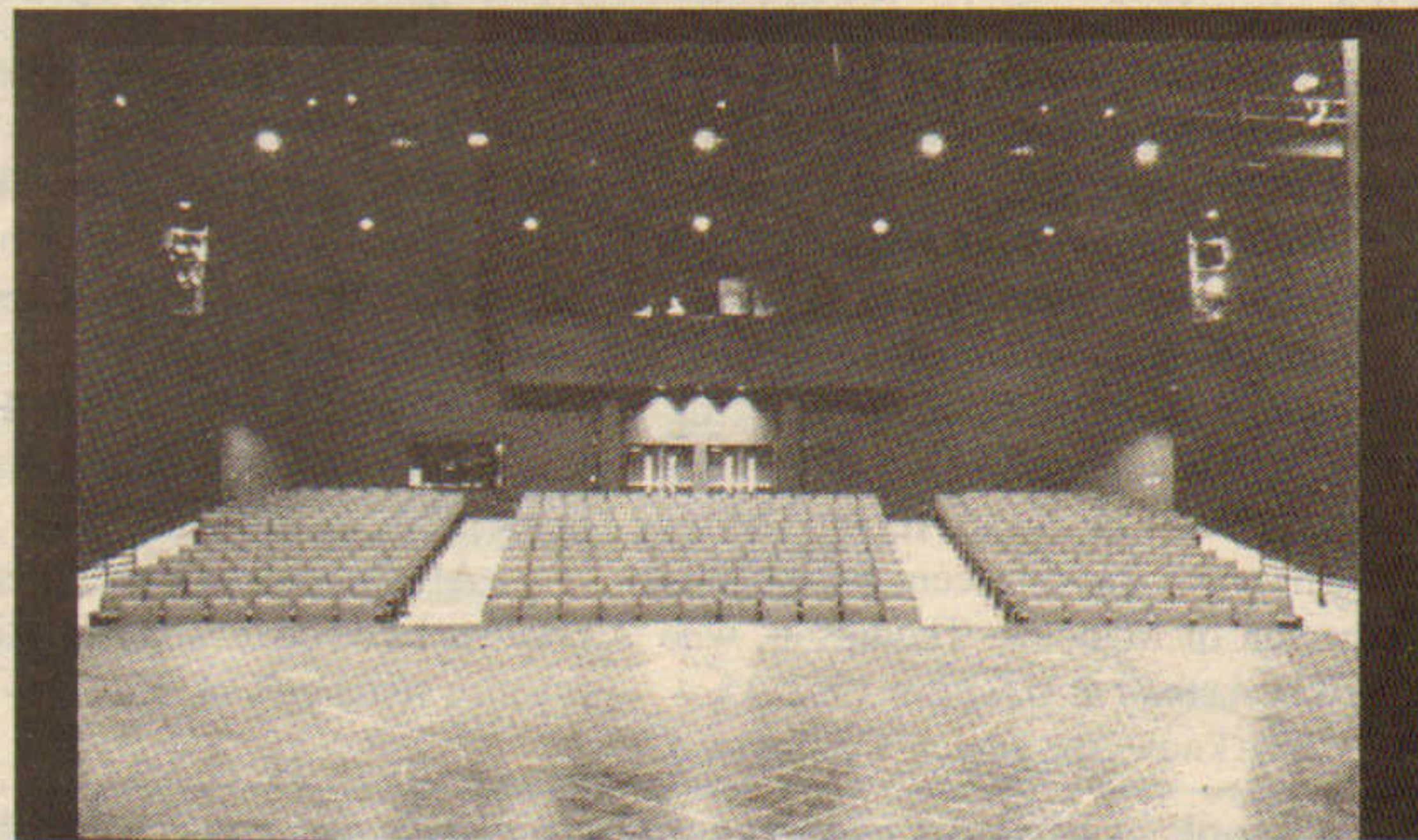
Street Where You Live," "The Rain in Spain," "Get Me to the Church On Time," "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face," and "Wouldn't It Be Lovely."

Performances are scheduled for Oct. 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. A Wednesday matinee Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. begins the second week of performances, which con-

tinue Oct. 22-24 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 25 at 2 p.m.

Advance tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 391-2277.

Season subscriptions, including *My Fair Lady*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *A Little Night Music*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*.



Shelton State and Theatre Tuscaloosa's new Bean-Brown Theatre

**Best cont'd from pg. 1**

other programs.

Under Siegelman, graduates with a B in the high school core curriculum, who scored at least a 20 on the ACT and have no criminal record would get about \$2,500 annually to help with tuition at either a two or four year institution.

These minimal standards are much more realistic than James's revised plan that has much higher requirements.

Students would stay qualified for the money by being enrolled full time and maintaining a 2.3 grade point average in their studies.

In addition, Siegelman's plan not only focuses on high school graduates, he also proposes that his plan would provide free tuition to existing college students, as well as funds for pre-kindergarten and class room technology, all through revenues from a State lottery.

Siegelman has said, "Why not have a lottery? People in Alabama are going to do it anyway. So if they are going to play the lottery, then they should do it in Alabama, and the money would go to the betterment of education, to school our kids."

James argues this plan will not work; it would only lead to casinos being built in the state.

Siegelman replies with a stern challenge: "If you can find a single casino in Georgia, I'll drop out of this race."

**Courier Poll finds for Siegelman**

The *Courier* took a poll to find out what the students think. The paper handed out ballots which read: If you were to vote today, how would you vote?

The results of our poll at Shelton State were that Shelton students were in favor of Don Siegelman over Fob James by a percentage of 61% to 28%, with 11% reporting that they have no made up their

minds yet.

Many students said they thought it would be an excellent idea to have a lottery in Alabama. Nearly everyone who said he was for the lottery had played a game in Florida or Georgia.

One Shelton student, Tena Welch, said, "Don Siegelman is really focusing on college students. He included the two year colleges, and I like that."

Gov. Fob James has recently unveiled a plan to fund college scholarships, but his funding source is a good deal more vague than Siegelman's lottery. The best one can determine is that James believes increases in the Education Trust Fund will be sufficient for the purpose. Also, James makes no mention of two-year colleges in his announced plan. It would definitely not seem to be in the best interests of Shelton State or its students to lay ones hopes for a brighter educational future on the ideas of Fob James.

On the other hand, Siegelman in a campaign swing through Tuscaloosa (and specifically the University of Alabama football game), seemed to reach out to everyone, including the state's community colleges. The *Courier* asked him about his plans for colleges like Shelton if he were elected. His response: "All the students in Alabama are a precious resource. Fob doesn't mention community colleges, but they are an integral part of my plan."

**Need for a Change?**

Siegelman volunteers outside the stadium were upset with the direction the state government has taken under Gov. James. One worker named Lisa said she works for the mental health system; she said James is dismantling the system. "He has cut funding and cut funding to programs like mental health and education to the point where we aren't going to have programs one day. I would just like to see somebody in the governors office who is progressive, somebody who has new ideas and new energy to

get things done."

Shelton students, like everyone in the state, are facing their future on Nov. 3. Some people, no doubt college students included, are afraid what the future might bring if the state faces such a radical change as a lottery. They think all forms of gambling are a sin and they are bitterly opposed to the possibility of a lottery.

Others believe what Don Siegelman has

been saying around the state: "What I know is a sin is that our children are not being given the best education they can, and the lottery and Don Siegelman can help change that."

When you step in the voting booth on Nov. 3, you'll be sharing with the rest of the people of Alabama what you believe is a sin—and what you believe is the truth.

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## Former Bama Roundballer is new Shelton Coach

By Courier Staff

The College has been on the lookout for a suitable replacement for successful two-year women's team coach Tab Jefferson since he announced his departure in June.

Forced to leave his post for personal reasons, Jefferson left on a high note as Coach of the Year in Shelton's junior college division, with a winning season, and with the firm hope of a conference championship in the near future.

Now because of his untimely leave taking, many are wondering if the women's program will take a giant step backwards into basketball oblivion. The athletic director of the college doesn't think so, however. Golf Coach and AD Jim Collins thinks he was a fine replacement signed in the person of Madonna Thompson, who played basketball at UA from 1992-95.

"She knows the game," Collins said.

"She really wanted to get into college coaching, and this is her chance."

If past success is any indication of future potential, then Shelton should be in good hands with Thompson and should be able to recover quickly from the loss of Jefferson who led the Lady Bucs to a 17-12 record last year.

Thompson earned four letters on UA teams that enjoyed tremendous acclaim. She started as a junior on the squad that went to the Final Four. Thompson averaged 6.9 points and 2.1 rebounds for her career. She ranks third among all UA players in steals.

Student Services Dean Humphrey Lee said he was very pleased with the find that Collins made.

AD Collins said he expects the new coach to be on board and ready to go when practice starts on Oct. 15.



**Donors' Pride**—Recently some of the benefactors of Shelton State visited the campus to tour the rooms named after them and/or their family. One such group was the Blackburns. They enjoyed their stop by the Gloria Blackburn classroom on the west wing before taking in a luncheon and a gift of an artist's rendering of the new college. On hand for the special occasion were (L-R) Sandra Ray, Alabama State Board of Education, the Blackburns' daughter Holly Piper with son Harry, John L. Blackburn, Gloria Blackburn and Shelton President Tom Umphrey.

### Donors took a Shelton tour recently to check out their namesakes

Some of the Shelton benefactors who were on hand for a tour of classrooms were Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Hester, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Shelton, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bambarger, Terry Waters, Dick Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Davis, Terry Bunn, Sonny Bunn, Dr. and Mrs. John L.

Blackburn, Jon Carter, Roland Pugh, Jon Carter, Verta Meherg, Jim Meherg, John Brillbeck, Larry O'Neal, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Miller, Opal McAbee, Drew Linn, Mr. and Mrs. John Crocker, Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Morris, Pat Miles, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Cannon, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Christian, Pettus Randall, Jimmie Young.

### SGA cont'd. from pg. 2

the SGA to make it more viable but we still need the support of the entire student body."

Tracy Branch, SGA advisor, thinks the organization has the potential to really make some needed changes. "I think the SGA has the ability to make some great things happen on campus, but it's going to take support from the faculty and the students to get it done."

**Freshman Representatives** for this

year are: Casey Hitt, Brian DesRochers, Beatrice Savage, Tabitha Jones, Christopher Eatman-Rollins, Kristie Franklin, Phillip Lewis.

**Sophomore Representatives:** James A. Crawford II, Missy January, Marcus Osborne, Kristyn Robinson, LeAnn Jones, Alicia Wiggins, Natasha Williams.

**C.A. Fredd Representative:** Frederick O'Neal Ward.



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## 1999 Miss Shelton State Scholarship Pageant

### Need Scholarship Money?

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## Shelton State's Child Development Center has growing international appeal

The Child Development Center at Shelton State is state-of-the art in many ways.

In addition to its year-old new facility and top-rated program, the center has also become a showcase of multi-culturalism. Of the 45 children currently attending the center, 14 children are German, ranging in ages from two and one-half to five years of age. Their parents are employees of Mercedes-Benz.

In addition to the German children, there is also one child from Holland and one from India.

According to Carolyn Edwards, director of the program, these are not the first children from other countries to enroll in Shelton's child center. "We've also had children from Asia, Africa, Puerto Rico, and Mexico with our very first international child having been from Brazil.

"Shelton's center is one of only four in Tuscaloosa County to be accredited by the National Association for Education for Young Children," says Edwards.

One of the main reasons for the success of the center is the low student-to-teacher ratio, according to Edwards.

Shelton's child center ratios are: one teacher for four infants, one teacher for six toddlers, and one teacher for every 11 preschool children.

The State requirement is not so generous: one teacher for every six infants, one teacher for every 12 toddlers, and one teacher for every 20 preschool children. A much higher teacher to child ratio than what is allowed at Shelton.

Edwards believes one of the reasons so many families from other countries choose Shelton's child development center is that Shelton "incorporates their culture into ours." "We try to make them feel at home. We like them to share special skills, such as cooking and hobbies. Many of the parents have cooked special German dishes for the children. We really try to encourage them to participate and interact with the other children," says Edwards.

The assimilation of the different cultures isn't always easy though. According to Edwards, the biggest problem they have is the language barrier.

"Language has been the biggest problem. We have learned some of the very basic German phrases, and you'd be surprised how quickly the children pick up English.

Despite the hardships blending the different cultures together, Edwards believes there are other reasons for international families to bring their children to Shelton.

"Everything in the center is child-oriented. All our activities are geared to the things the children are interested in. Everything at Shelton is hands-on," says Edwards.

Shelton is proud to have such a driving force educating our young children.

"The college's child development center has been recognized nationally for its innovative contribution to child care. Our staff is excellent, and we are pleased that employees of Mercedes-Benz trust Shelton State with their children," says Tom Umphrey, President of Shelton State.

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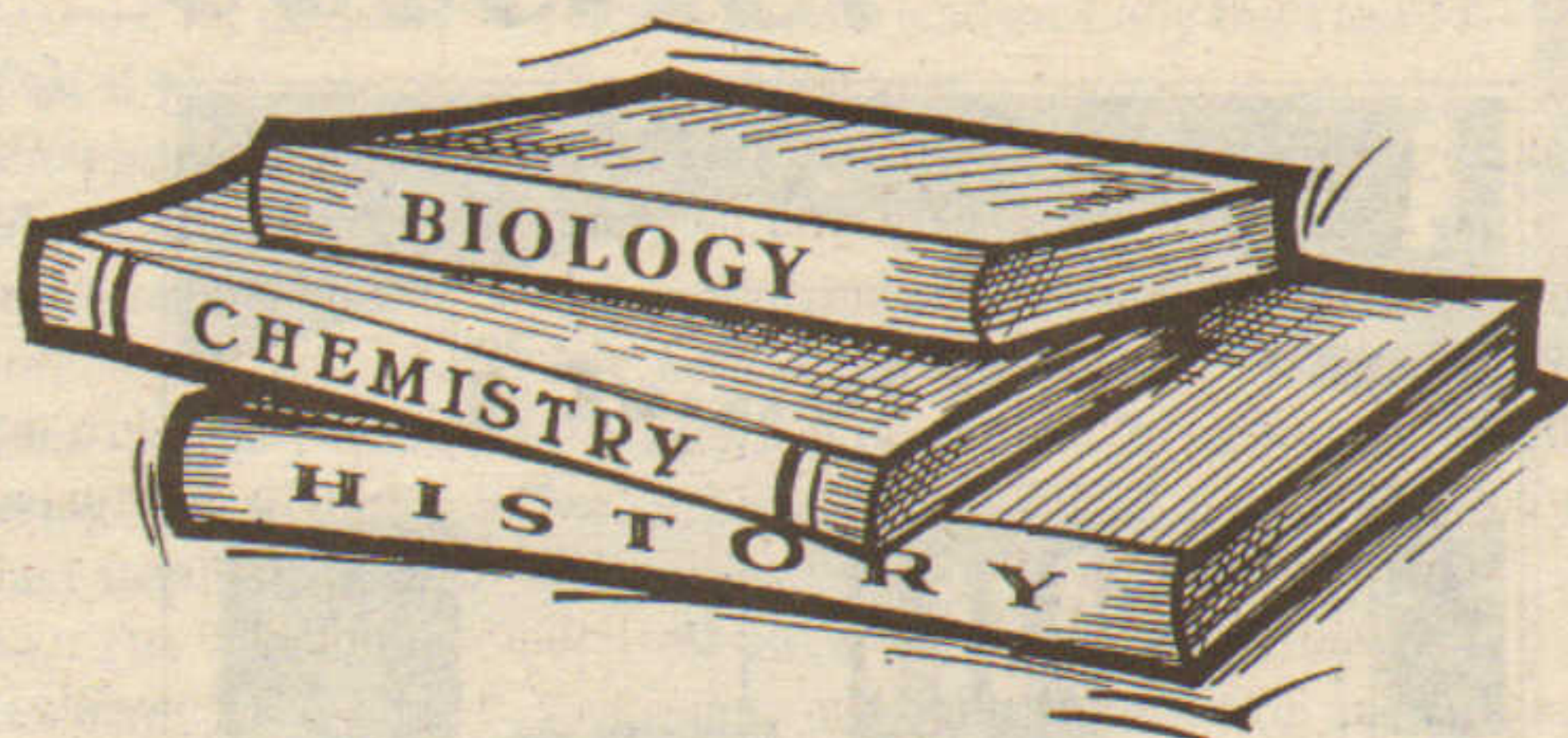
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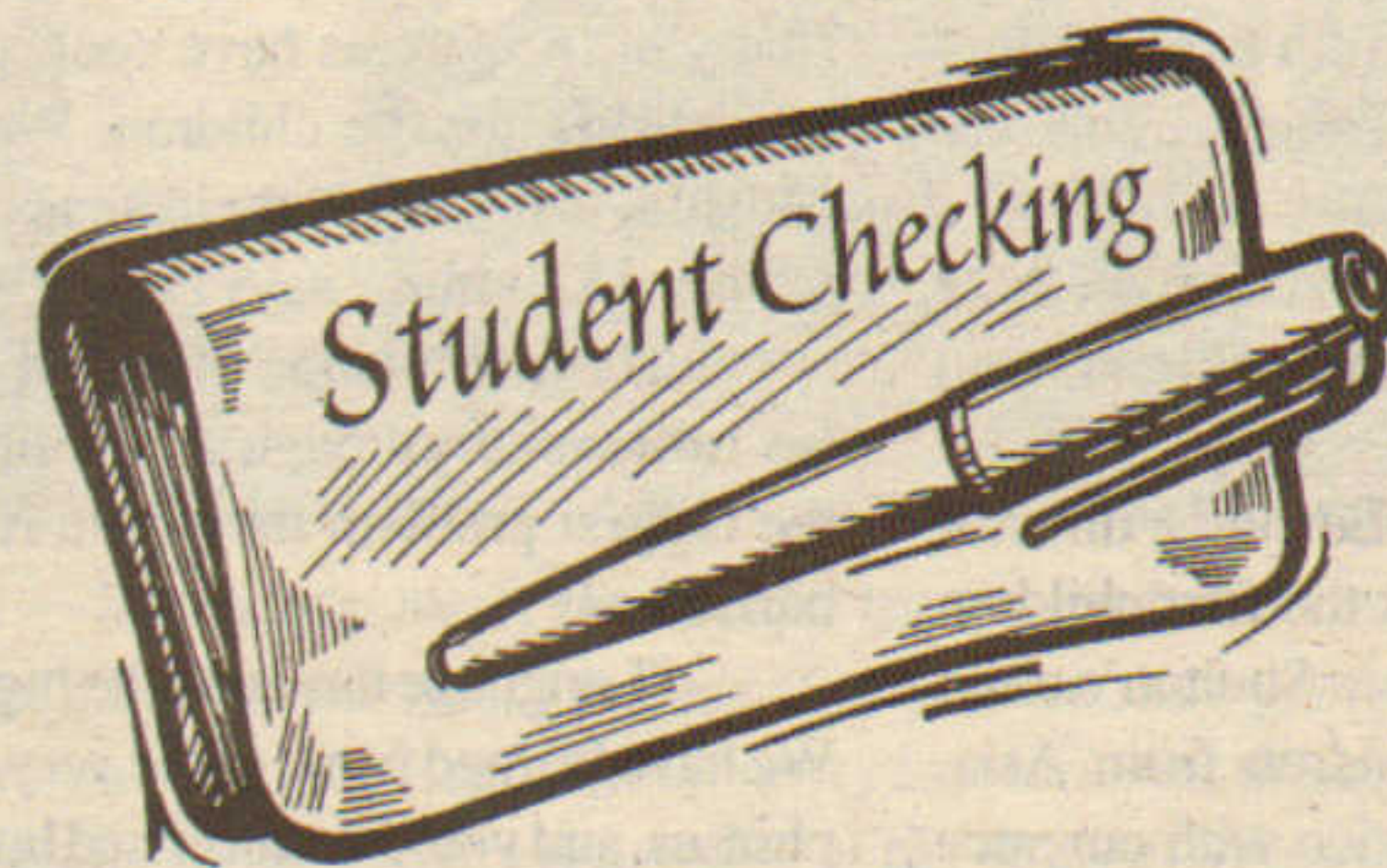




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## BULLETIN BOARD

Tuscaloosa County Department of Human Resources has contracted with Shelton State to provide an innovative training program for JOBS participants.

**A pilot carpentry class has been opened at the Fredd campus for women.**

Classes began on Sept. 14, with approximately 20 participants. Each one was provided with instructional materials, tools and supplies. Those who complete the class will likely carry basic skills to the job market that will offer beginning salaries of at least \$7.50.

David Sanders is the instructor. He has also made frequent use of guest lecturers.

If this pilot program is successful, DHR plans to offer other occupational programs in the construction trades.

**A look into the past is being planned in a one-day tour Wednesday, Oct. 21, of both Tannehill Ironworks Historical Park and the Brierfield Ironworks Historical Park.**

The Cahaba Trace Heritage Tour, with Charles E. Adams directing, is being sponsored by Shelton's Lifetime Learning Institute. The cost is \$11.50, and you must provide your own transportation. Call 391-2360 for more information or to register.

**Shelton Wellness and Music student Justin Kenny is apparently "hanging in there" as a candidate for a slot on MTV's *Real World* series.**

Last week the show's producers called him requesting another 10-minute video tape of why they should select him for the show.

He should hear something soon because they added: "You need to overnight this, or you will be holding up production."

Kenny refused to speculate on his chances. "When they interviewed me at the Varsity, the guy said to forget about it, to try not to think about it until he I heard from them, so that's what I've been trying to do."

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### If this guy doesn't even smoke dope, why is he preaching to us about making it legal?

It's late one night after you've worked an eight-hour shift at a job you're not fond of and you still have to study for a test the next day. Wouldn't it be nice if you had something that could help you relax before you jumped into that big textbook? Wouldn't it even be nicer if that something were not illegal?

The scenario I'm describing here is not uncommon in America at campuses across the land. The 'something' I'm referring to, of course, happens to be marijuana and if the scene described above fits you then take heart because you're by far not alone.

The debate on whether or not we should legalize "grass" and other drugs has been a long-enduring one.

It seems that every college in this country has at least one group advocating that we make drugs available to those who want to buy it and another group pointing out its dangers.

The main issue here is health and safety. The powers that be support the ban on drugs because they contend that they're unsafe. If this is the case why isn't alcohol banned? Well, some would tell you it's because alcohol has been around for as long as history has been recorded and population has incorporated it into its culture.

Apparently society has gotten used to the idea of bar room fights, drunken free-for-alls, drunk driving and parents destroying not only their lives but the lives of everyone around them.

Doesn't that make you feel better about the society we live in?

I've never heard of anyone smoking a joint and then going on a rampage around the house looking for someone to beat up on. It may have happened, but I'll wager it happens a lot less than a drunk coming home looking for the first person smaller than he is to take out his daily frustrations on.

In fact, the drunken, abusive father is so common, it's almost a cliché.

In all fairness, at this point, I should tell you that I'm not in wholesale favor of legalizing drugs, but I am in favor of at least legalizing some of them and yes marijuana

happens to be on that list.

Indeed, I myself suffer intense migraines when in the presence (or after-presence) of marijuana smoke, but that doesn't change my view that the other person should have the right to smoke it.

In my eyes and in the eyes of many people out there, marijuana doesn't come close to being as unhealthy or unsafe as the lethal narcotics heroin, cocaine and crank.

In fact, it is generally considered to be rank and file with such drugs as Paxil, Prozac, Zanax and other prescription medications that a growing number of the population consumes for depression and anxiety.

Although the dangers of using drugs cannot be ignored, there is scientific evidence to support that marijuana use actually can help alleviate pain for a lot of people.

Now I'm not saying everyone who has a backache should run out and smoke a joint; they're not for everyone and, I am not a smoker; in fact, I'm not a smoker of anything. But the fact is, marijuana grows naturally and I've never known Mother Nature to be wrong.

You may find yourself asking: If this guy doesn't even smoke dope, why is he preaching to us about making it legal? Why does he even care?

Well, the answer to that question is that I care about the social decline America is in and I value our freedoms—yours and mine—so much that I think we should have the right to choose to use recreational drugs if we take them along with the other responsible choice of what to do in our daily lives.

Drugs of any kind are not the end to every means. There not the choice every one of us will make to "cure what ails ya." But who are we to deny our fellow man the opportunity to enjoy this vice that grows naturally and has been around far longer than any of our laws or petty squabbles.

The bottom line here in the land of the free is that all people should have their own personal space. As long as their vices affect only them, they should be able to do what they want.

—James A. Crawford II

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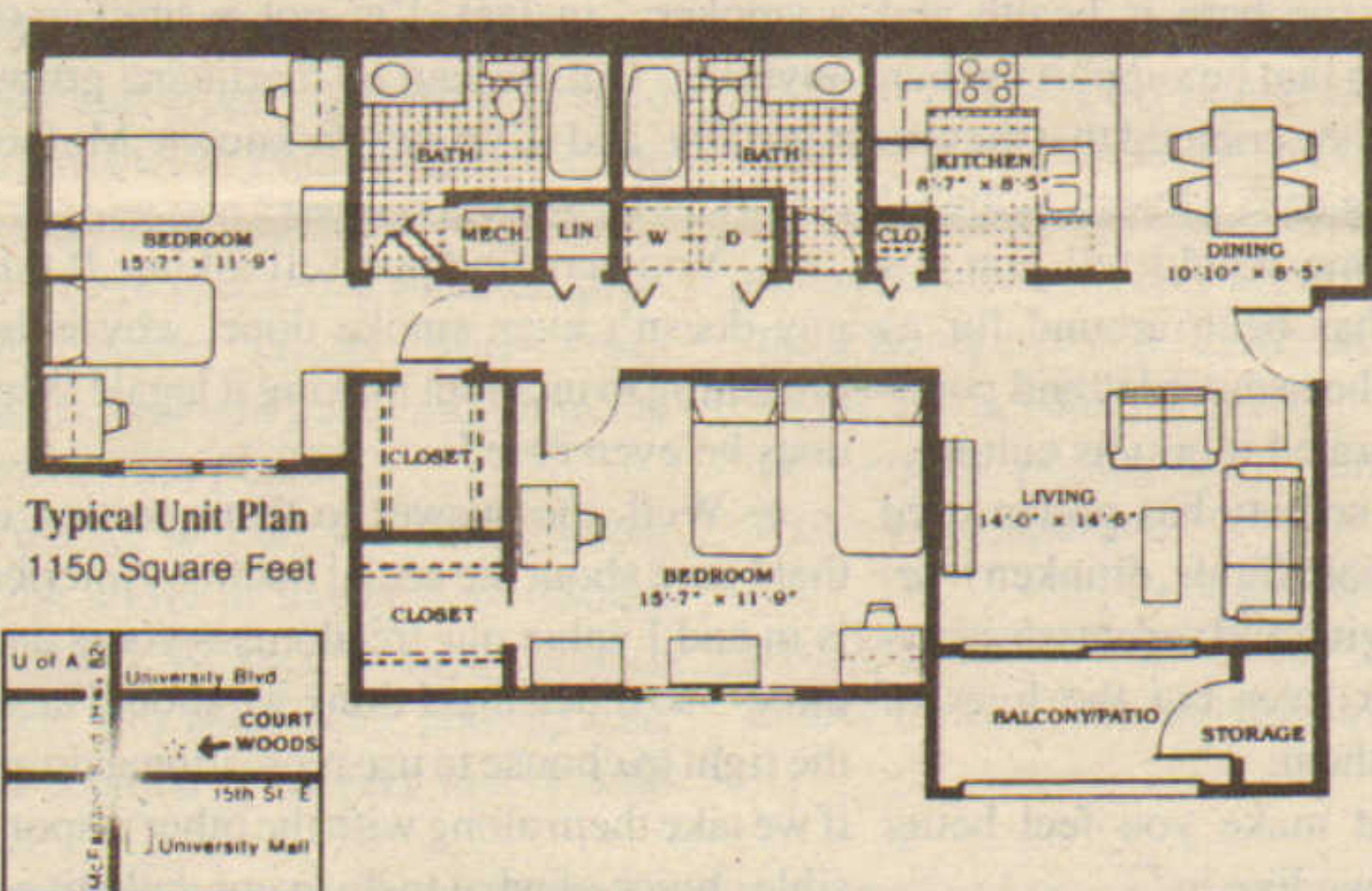
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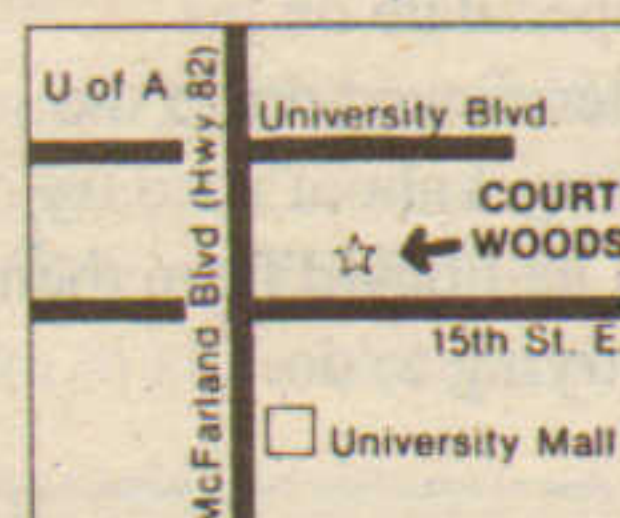
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